



Moraga

Public Meetings

Town Council

Wednesday, July 22 canceled
Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School,
1010 Camino Pablo

Planning Commission

Monday, July 20, 7 p.m.
Moraga Library, 1500 St. Mary's Rd.

Design Review

Monday, July 27, 7 p.m.
Tuesday, June 8 canceled
Moraga Library, 1500 St. Mary's Rd.

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

Town of Moraga:

www.moraga.ca.us
Phone: (925) 888-7022

Chamber of Commerce:

www.moragachamber.org

Moraga Citizens' Network:

www.moragacitizensnetwork.org



Moraga Police Department

Unauthorized industrial fireworks 7/04/15 Police responded to a call about industrial fireworks on Augusta Drive at Greenbrier. Moraga-Orinda Fire District responded, dousing the large box holding 16 unexploded skyrockets with water, rendering them inert. Knucklehead firework owner, who apparently missed multiple fire danger warnings, has not come forward.

Possession of fireworks 7/04/15 Although there was a report of a pipe bomb, officers checked the area and only found remote devices to set off explosives. They also found several juveniles on the golf course who were in possession of fireworks, which were later disposed by the fire department. One of the three youngsters had consumed an alcoholic beverage. The three amigos agreed to enter the Juvenile Diversion Program, and were picked up by responsible adults.

Car left in road 6/30/15 An abandoned white Chevy Suburban was creating a traffic hazard on Moraga Road near Campolindo Drive. Cops had the very large vehicle towed and entered the car into their computer system. They also left a notice that the car was now stored at the registered owner's residence. No word if the beast was out of gas or had mechanical trouble.

Pool house squatters 7/03/15 Someone reported that two people were found living in the pool house on Woodminster Drive, and caused unspecified damage to the property. Cops came, the couple fled, but police later caught up with them and they admitted to being in the pool house, but denied causing any damage. Presumably if they had a better housing option, they would have taken it.

Car disappearance, exact date unknown. A Mercedes was reported missing by the owners of a home on Donald Drive that had been inherited. They simply wished to document the incident. Some time later, the car was involved in an accident in Concord and towed from the scene by police. Chief Priebe reports that the car has not been reported stolen.

Other crimes that occurred in Moraga between June 30 and July 7:

False Alarms – Moraga Way, Gaywood Place, Paseo Grande, Moraga Road, Calle la Montana, Fernwood Drive

Battery – Moraga Road

Identity Theft – Draeger Drive

Deceased Person – Saint Andrews Drive

Petty Theft – Camino Peral, Center Street

Danger to Self – St. Mary's Road

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Hacienda Proposal Excites Town Council

By Nick Marnell



Concept A: Community conference center and inn at Hacienda de las Flores. The Moraga Town Council opted for function over form July 8 as it directed its design consultant to further enhance a conceptual plan for the development of the Hacienda de las Flores.

After hosting two community workshops and processing the feedback and information, Gould Evans, the architectural design firm chosen by the town to develop conceptual plans for the upgrade of the nine-acre property, presented two completely different visions for the

Hacienda at the council meeting. Concept A featured a community conference center and inn, which called for the conversion of the main building into an inn, plus the addition of an expanded conference center, a swimming pool and up to 30 lodging units. Concept B pictured the Hacienda as a community arts and sculpture park, featuring plenty of open space and requiring the remodel of the main building into a community center and restaurant, plus the construction of a

tent courtyard area to host year-round social functions.

The arts park received little support from the public or the council, as it provided limited ability for the town to generate revenue. "The town can't afford concept B," said Councilmember Phil Arth. "It's not commercially viable."

"Concept A is exactly what we need," said Vice Mayor Mike Metcalf, noting that Moraga is in dire need of accommodation and could certainly use another restaurant.

Councilmember Dave Trotter urged the firm to think even bigger along those lines, suggesting that the casitas be converted into two-story lodging units rather than the one-story model presented.

Bob Baum of Gould Evans projected that the price tag for the community conference center could reach \$22 million, double the expected costs for the arts park. He said that though he has received initial interest in the project from developers, the key to a successful public-private partnership will be how a request for proposal is structured, including the terms and incentives given to operators and investors, with the number of hotel rooms being a critical factor.

The firm will proceed with the next step in the design process, refining the community conference center concept and including a more focused cost estimate. The updated conceptual plan should be presented to the town this fall.

Parks and Recreation Director Jay Ingram captured the upbeat mood of the evening. "Dream big," he said, envisioning the reconstructed Hacienda as a top tourist destination. "If we want something bad enough, we'll figure out a way to make it happen."

Moraga Management

Balanced budget, happy staff, retirement liability (almost) in check

By Sophie Braccini

New agreements for all employee groups, including compensation and benefits, became effective July 1. When the new two-year memoranda of understanding was approved by the Town Council, town manager Jill Keimach highlighted the fact that the negotiations went smoothly, due to employees' understanding of the town's situation and reasonable demands. According to these employees, the smooth process was the result of the mutual trust that Keimach fosters with her team, keeping them in the loop and making sure they get the rewards they deserve, when fiscally possible. This year, with increases in property and sales tax revenue, the town was able to raise employees' salaries while projecting a modest surplus. A required new accounting method also shows the town's upcoming California Public Employees' Retirement System liability will have to be taken into account.

"Thank you from me, the community, and the council for continuing to understand our limited financial resources and being part of the solution during the economic downturn," said Keimach to the town staff. "Now that we are back on track financially, I am pleased the council is able to show its appreciation to all staff in the form of two years of salary increases." As of July 1 all employees received a 3 percent cost of living increase plus a 1 percent salary increase in exchange for a 1 percent employee payment of the Town's share of its pension, continuation of the new medical benefits or similar benefits at the Kaiser gold level through the next two years, and a 0.25 percent salary increase (for police officers).

The 2015-16 budget, as approved by the council and including these salary elements, projects a \$100,000 surplus at the end of the fiscal year and is based on a 3 percent increase in property tax revenues, \$1.7 million from Measure K sales.

According to the town's employees, salary negotiations went well. Lt. John King who was the mid-manage-

ment representative, and who only recently joined the Moraga staff, has

worked in other public agencies and has participated in similar negotia-

tions in different capacities.

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Listings in Lafayette & Moraga!



18 Springhill Lane, Lafayette

5 bedroom + office, 4.5 bathroom, 4070± sq. ft. home on .69± acres.
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131 Devin Drive, Moraga

3 bedroom, 2 bathroom, 1449± sq. ft. home on .28± acres.
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